CLAIMS

We claim the following:

1. An electrical box mounting bracket comprising:

a first substantially flat and elongated rail having a first end portion and a second end portion and having a length, width and thickness;

a second substantially flat and elongated rail having a first end portion and a second end portion and having length, width and thickness dimensions substantially the same as the corresponding dimensions of the first rail;

a first crosstie having a first end portion and a second end portion and having a thickness substantially the same as the first rail and a length less than half the length of the first rail;

a second crosstie having a first end portion and a second end portion and having substantially the same dimensions as the first crosstie;

the first rail and the first crosstie fixedly joined at their respective first end portions such that their respective length dimensions are oriented substantially perpendicular;

the second rail fixedly joined at its first end portion to the second end portion of said first crosstie such that their respective length dimensions are oriented substantially perpendicular and such that the length dimensions of the first rail and the second rail extend in the same direction and are parallel;

the second crosstie fixedly joined at its first end portion to the second end portion of said first rail such that their respective length dimensions are oriented substantially perpendicular and such that the length dimensions of the first crosstie and the second crosstie extend in the same direction and are parallel;

the second crosstie fixedly joined at its second end portion to the second end portion of said second rail such that their respective length dimensions are oriented substantially perpendicular;

a substantially rectangular aperture defined and surrounded by said fixedly joined first crosstie, first rail, second crosstie and second rail;

a plurality of holes formed at predetermined locations in said first and second rails;

said plurality of holes defining at least one mounting location for attaching an electrical connection box to the bracket;

at least one of said plurality of holes adapted to align with a fastener hole of an electrical connection box placed at said at least one mounting location; and

at least one of said plurality of holes adapted to accommodate a fastener for attaching said box to said rails.

2. An electrical box mounting bracket comprising:

a first substantially flat and elongated top rail having at least one longitudinal edge, a first end portion, a second end portion and having a length, width and thickness;

a second substantially flat and elongated top rail having at least one longitudinal edge, a first end portion, a second end portion and having length, width and thickness dimensions substantially the same as the corresponding dimensions of the first top rail;

a first substantially flat and elongated bottom rail having at least one longitudinal edge, a first end portion, a second end portion and having a length, width and thickness;

a second substantially flat and elongated bottom rail having at least one longitudinal edge, a first end portion, a second end portion and having length, width and thickness dimensions substantially the same as the corresponding dimensions of the first bottom rail;

a first crosstie having a first end portion and a second end portion and having a thickness substantially the same as said top rails and a length less than half the length of the first top rail;

a second crosstie having a first end portion and a second end portion and having substantially the same dimensions as the first crosstie;

the first top rail and the first crosstie fixedly joined at their respective first end portions such that their respective length dimensions are oriented substantially perpendicular;

the second top rail fixedly joined at its first end portion to the second end portion of said first crosstie such that their respective length dimensions are oriented substantially perpendicular and such that the length dimensions of the first top rail and the second top rail extend in the same direction and are parallel, to form a substantially "U" shaped structure;

the first bottom rail and the second crosstie fixedly joined at their respective first end portions such that their respective length dimensions are oriented substantially perpendicular;

the second bottom rail fixedly joined at its first end portion to the second end portion of said second crosstie such that their respective length dimensions are oriented substantially perpendicular and such that the length dimensions of the first bottom rail and the second bottom rail extend in the same direction and are parallel, to form a substantially "U" shaped structure;

a channel formed along said at least one longitudinal edge of the first bottom rail;

a channel formed along said at least one longitudinal edge of the second bottom rail;

said first top rail slidingly retained within the channel formed in the first bottom rail and said second top rail slidingly retained within the channel formed in the second bottom rail;

a substantially rectangular aperture of variable size defined and surrounded by said first crosstie, first top rail, first bottom rail, second crosstie, second bottom rail and second top rail;

a plurality of holes formed at predetermined locations in said first and second top rails;

a plurality of holes formed at predetermined locations in said first and second bottom rails;

said plurality of holes defining at least one mounting location for attaching an electrical connection box to the bracket;

at least one of said plurality of holes adapted to align with a fastener hole of an electrical connection box placed at said at least one mounting location; and

at least one of said plurality of holes adapted to accommodate a fastener for attaching an electrical box to said rails.

3. An electrical box mounting bracket comprising:

first and second substantially flat and elongated rails, each having substantially the same length, width and thickness;

first and second end plates, each having substantially the same length that is less than half the length of said rails;

fixed connections formed between said first end plate and said first rail, and between said first rail and said second end plate, and between said second end plate and said second rail, and between said second rail and said first end plate;

a substantially rectangular aperture defined and surrounded by said first end plate, said first rail, said second end plate and said second rail;

a plurality of holes formed in said first and second rails;

at least one of said plurality of holes adapted to align with at least one fastener hole of an electrical box;

whereby an electrical box may be attached to the bracket by means of a fastener installed through at least one of said plurality of holes formed in a said rail and an aligned electrical box fastener hole.

4. The electrical box mounting bracket of claim 1 or claim 3 further including:

at least one flat tab formed integrally with said first rail;

said at least one flat tab extending in the width dimension of said first rail in a direction from said first rail toward said second rail, and extending along a portion of the length of said first rail;

at least one hole formed in said at least one flat tab adapted to align with at least one fastener hole of an electrical box;

whereby an electrical box may be attached to the bracket by means of a fastener installed through said at least one hole formed in said at least one flat tab and an aligned electrical box fastener hole.

5. An electrical box mounting bracket comprising:

a first substantially flat and elongated top rail having at least one longitudinal edge, a first end portion, a second end portion and having a length, width and thickness;

a second substantially flat and elongated top rail having at least one longitudinal edge, a first end portion, a second end portion and having length, width and thickness dimensions substantially the same as the corresponding dimensions of the first top rail;

a first substantially flat and elongated midsection rail having at least one longitudinal edge, a length, a first end, and a second end;

a second substantially flat and elongated midsection rail having at least one longitudinal edge, a length, a first end, and a second end;

a first substantially flat and elongated bottom rail having at least one longitudinal edge, a first end portion, a second end portion and having a length, width and thickness;

a second substantially flat and elongated bottom rail having at least one longitudinal edge, a first end portion, a second end portion and having length, width and thickness dimensions substantially the same as the corresponding dimensions of the first bottom rail;

a first crosstie having a first end portion and a second end portion and having a thickness substantially the same as said top rails and a length less than half the length of the first top rail;

a second crosstie having a first end portion and a second end portion and having substantially the same dimensions as the first crosstie;

the first top rail and the first crosstie fixedly joined at their respective first end portions such that their respective length dimensions are oriented substantially perpendicular;

the second top rail fixedly joined at its first end portion to the second end portion of said first crosstie such that their respective length dimensions are oriented substantially perpendicular and such that the length dimensions of the first top rail and the second top rail extend in the same direction and are parallel, to form a substantially "U" shaped structure;

the first bottom rail and the second crosstie fixedly joined at their respective first end portions such that their respective length dimensions are oriented substantially perpendicular;

the second bottom rail fixedly joined at its first end portion to the second end portion of said second crosstie such that their respective length dimensions are oriented substantially perpendicular and such that the length dimensions of the first bottom rail and the second bottom rail extend in the same direction and are parallel, to form a substantially "U" shaped structure;

a channel formed along said at least one longitudinal edge of the first midsection rail extending from said first end to said second end;

a channel formed along said at least one longitudinal edge of the second midsection rail extending from said first end to said second end;

said at least one longitudinal edge of said first top rail slidingly retained within said channel formed in the first midsection rail;

said at least one longitudinal edge of said second top rail slidingly retained within said channel formed in the second midsection rail;

said at least one longitudinal edge of said first bottom rail slidingly retained within said channel formed in the first midsection rail;

said at least one longitudinal edge of said second bottom rail slidingly retained within said channel formed in the second midsection rail;

said first crosstie, first top rail, first midsection rail, first bottom rail, second crosstie, second bottom rail, second midsection rail, and second top rail defining a substantially rectangular aperture of variable size;

at least one hole formed at a predetermined location in each of said first and second top rails;

at least one hole formed at a predetermined location in each of said first and second midsection rails;

at least one hole formed at a predetermined location in each of said first and second bottom rails;

said at least one hole in said rails defining at least one mounting location for attaching an electrical connection box to the bracket;

said at least one hole in said rails adapted to align with a fastener hole of an electrical connection box placed at said at least one mounting location; and

said at least one hole in said rails adapted to accommodate a fastener for attaching an electrical box to said bracket.

6. The electrical box mounting bracket of claim 2 or claim 5 wherein:

said bracket is continuously adjustable in length, to accommodate mounting between studs separated from about 16 inches to about 24 inches.

7. The electrical box mounting bracket of claim 5 further including:

at least one flat tab formed integrally with at least one of said first top rail or said first midsection rail;

said at least one flat tab extending in the width dimension of at least one of said first top rail in a direction from said first top rail toward said second top rail, and extending along a portion of the length of said first top rail, or said at least one flat tab extending in the width dimension of at least one of said first midsection rail in a direction from said first midsection rail toward said second midsection rail, and extending along a portion of the length of said first midsection rail;

at least one hole formed in said at least one flat tab adapted to align with at least one fastener hole of an electrical box;

whereby an electrical box may be attached to the bracket by means of a fastener installed through said at least one hole formed in said at least one flat tab and an aligned electrical box fastener hole.

8. The electrical box mounting bracket of claim 4 or claim 7 further including:

an adjustment slot formed in said at least one hole formed in said at least one flat tab.

9. The electrical box mounting bracket of claim 4, claim 7 or claim 8 wherein:

a said flat tab is adapted to be separated from a said rail along a score line.